Natural Resources Conservation Service

Application Ranking Summary

Rio Grande WS - Cropland/Soil Management

Program:	**Ranking Date:**	**Application Number:**
Ranking Tool: Rio Grande WS - Cropland/Soil Management		**Applicant:**
Final Ranking Score:		**Address:**
Planner:		**Telephone:**
Farm Location:		

National Priorities Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
Clean and Abundant Water: Water Quality – Will the proposed project assist the producer to:	
1. a. Meet regulatory requirements relating to animal feeding operations, or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	Yes O or No O
1. b. Reduce sediment, nutrients or pesticides from agricultural operations located within a field that adjoins a designated impaired water body?	Yes O or No O
1. c. Reduce sediment, nutrients or pesticides from agricultural operations located within a field that adjoins a water body?	Yes O or No O
Clean and Abundant Water: Water Conservation – Will the proposed project assist the producer to:	
2. a. Increase groundwater recharge in identified groundwater depletion areas (http://water.usgs.gov/ogw/rasa/html/TOC.html)?	Yes O or No O
2. b. Conserve water from irrigation system improvements and result in estimated water savings of at least 5% and saved water will be available for other beneficial uses?	Yes O or No O
2. c. Conserve water in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?	Yes O or No O
Clean Air: Treatment of Air Quality from Agricultural Sources – Will the proposed project assist the producer to:	
3. a. Meet regulatory requirements relating to air quality or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	Yes O or No O
3. b. Reduce green house gases such as methane, nitrous oxide, and volatile organic compounds (VOC)?	Yes O or No O
3. c. Increase carbon sequestration?	Yes O or No O
High Quality, Productive Soils Erosion Reduction – Will the proposed project assist the producer to:	
4. a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil "T")?	Yes O or No O
Healthy Plant and Animal Communities Wildlife Habitat Conservation – Will the proposed project assist the producer to:	
5. a. Benefit threatened and endangered, at-risk, candidate, or species of concern as identified in a State wildlife plan?	Yes O or No O
5. b. Retain wildlife and plant benefits on land exiting the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)?	Yes O or No O
High Quality, Productive Soils, Healthy Plant and Animal Communities: Special Environmental Efforts/Initiatives – Will the proposed project assist the producer to:	
6. a. Eradicate or control noxious or invasive species?	Yes O or No O
6. b. Increase, improve or establish pollinator habitat?	Yes O or No O
6. c. Properly dispose of animal carcasses?	Yes O or No O
6. d. Implement an Integrated Pest Management plan?	Yes O or No O
6. e. Implement precision agricultural methods?	Yes O or No O
Strategic Initiative – Energy Conservation and Sustainable Production Energy Conservation – Will the proposed project assist the producer to:	
7. a. Reduce energy consumption on the agricultural operation?	Yes O or No O

Business Lines – Conservation Implementation Additional Ranking Considerations - Will the proposed project result in:	
8. a. Implementation of all planned conservation practices within three years of contract obligation?	Yes O or No O
8. b. Improvement of existing conservation practices or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is accepted, or will complete an existing conservation system?	Yes O or No O
Does the applicant meet the following conditions:	
9. a. If the applicant has an existing EQIP contract, has it been, and is it now, on schedule and in full compliance?	Yes O or No O
9. b. Did the applicant successfully complete any past contract(s) in full compliance?	Yes O or No O
9. c. Is this the applicant's first EQIP application?	Yes O or No O

State Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
1. Will the project reduce the amount of nutrients/pesticides/salt/selenium or other pollutants entering ground or surface waters?	Yes O or No O
2. .Will the planned practice(s) promote water conservation on the contracted acres?	Yes O or No O
3. Does the project increase the diversity of desirable plants on grazing lands?	Yes O or No O
4. Does the project improve the health of riparian and/or wetland areas?	Yes O or No O
5. Is the proposed project located within the State NRCS wildlife priority area, and do the planned practices address the habitat needs of the targeted species designated in the wildlife priority area?	Yes O or No O
6. Will the planned practice(s) reduce irrigation induced or streambank erosion?	Yes O or No O
7. Has any portion of the offered acres been set aside or inventoried by a Cultural Resources Specialist or an Archeologist?	Yes O or No O
8. Does the proposed project support organic transition (farming operation to be used while transitioning from conventional to organic production)?	Yes O or No O

Local Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
1. Has the applicant (who has not yet had an EQIP contract) implemented a progressive or a RMS conservation plan that was developed within the last 5 years and practices to be contracted and applied will result in a RMS or better?	Yes O or No O
2. Will an applicant (who has not yet had an EQIP contract or worked with NRCS to develop a progressive conservation plan) implement a progressive or RMS conservation plan that reduces wind &/or water erosion?	Yes O or No O
3. Has applicant satisfactorily completed an EQIP contract within the last 5 years?	Yes O or No O
4. Does the applicant currently have an EQIP contract that is being satisfactorily implemented?	Yes O or No O
5. Applicant has not cancelled an EQIP contract within the last 5 years?	Yes O or No O
6. Will more than 50% of non irrigated cropland on the Tract(s) under contract be converted to permanent cover?	Yes O or No O
7. Will 25 – 50% of non irrigated cropland on the Tract(s) under contract be converted to permanent cover?	Yes O or No O
8. Will less than 25% of non irrigated cropland on the Tract(s) under contract be converted to permanent grass cover or to alfalfa?	Yes O or No O
9. Will wind and / or water erosion be treated with Residue and Tillage Management 345, Mulch Till, Contour Farming or Strip Cropping?	Yes O or No O
10. Will gulley erosion be treated with Grassed Waterways?	Yes O or No O
11. Does the application include terraces that will reduce water erosion on less than 25% of cropland?	Yes O or No O
12. Does the application include terraces that will reduce water erosion on 25 - 50% of cropland?	Yes O or No O
13. Does the application include terraces that will reduce water erosion on over 50% of cropland?	Yes O or No O
14. Is the weighted Erodibility Index (EI) > 8?	Yes O or No O
15. Is the field slope greater than = 6%?	Yes O or No O
16. Is the field slope less than 6% but greater than 3%?	Yes O or No O

17. Is the field slope less than 3%?	Yes O or No O
18. Will either sheet or rill erosion (RUSLE2) or wind erosion (XWEQ) be less than T?	Yes O or No O
19. Will either sheet and rill erosion (RUSLE2) or wind erosion (XWEQ) be greater than T but less than 2T?	Yes O or No O
20. Is the weighted Soil Erodibility (I, tons/ acre) > = 134?	Yes O or No O
21. Is the weighted Soil Erodibility (I , tons/ acre) > = 86 but less than 134?	Yes O or No O
22. Will a winter Cover Crop (340) be planned for fall application following a low residue crop such as potatoes, prior to a spring planted sordan water savings & nematicidal set aside crop?	Yes O or No O
23. Will a winter Cover Crop (340) be planned for fall application following a low residue crop such as potatoes, prior to a spring planted canola or mustard nematicidal set aside crop?	Yes O or No O
24. Will a winter Cover Crop (340) be planned for fall application following a low residue crop such as potatoes, prior to another low residue crop?	Yes O or No O
25. Will participant add winter wheat for grain or hay in his crop rotation to reduce erosion following low residue crops?	Yes O or No O
26. Residue and Tillage Management (345), Mulch Till where small grain residue is NOT baled be included in the contract?	Yes O or No O
27. Residue and Tillage Management (345), Mulch Till where small grain residue is baled be included in the contract?	Yes O or No O
28. Is planting permanent cover (550, 512, 327) in the contract to establish permanent cover on idle cropland acreage in pivot corners, and participant will mow &/or use herbicides for weed control rather than annual tillage?	Yes O or No O
29. Will applicant discontinue annual tillage on pivot corners and go to mowing and / or herbicides for weed control?	Yes O or No O
30. Does the contract address energy conservation with Conservation Power Plant (716)	Yes O or No O

Land Use:

Resource Concerns	Practices

Ranking Score

Efficiency:

Local Issues:

State Issues:

National Issues:

Final Ranking Score:

This ranking report is for your information. It does not in any way guarantee funding. When funding becomes available, you will be notified if your application is selected for funding. Some changes to the application may be required before a final contract is awarded.

Notes:

NRCS Representative: **Signature Date:**	**Application Signature Not Required for Contract Development unless required by State policy:** **Signature Date:**